Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone was the only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, and the Purple Heart; and,

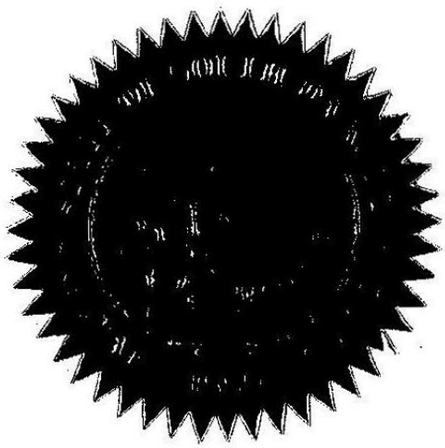
Whereas, Basilone was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1942 for his heroism on the island of Guadalcanal and was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart for actions at Iwo Jima; and,

Whereas, Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone Day commemorates the life and legacy of John Basilone, while paying tribute to all those Marines who have given so much throughout our history to protect the freedoms we enjoy:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2004, as

GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN BASILONE DAY

in South Dakota, and encourage all citizens to recognize the sacrifices that all military personnel make each and every day to keep our nation safe.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State